

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NORMAN L.
DIANDA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Norman L. Dianda for his leadership as President of Q&D Construction.

Norm is a native Nevadan, having graduated from Reno High School and then serving 6 years as a machinist in the Nevada Air National Guard. Following his tenure with the Nevada Air National Guard, Norm founded Q&D Construction with his friend Lawrence Quadrio. Over the years, the business grew into the 1,000-employee company that it is today, and has added several divisions along the way.

Norm also believes that giving back to the community is necessary. Over the years he has served and continues to serve on numerous committees and boards. One of the projects that was special to Norm was the relocation and restoration of Huffaker Elementary School, which he attended as a youth. Norm also regularly donates to 10 non-profit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Norman L. Dianda. His professional success with Q&D Construction and his philanthropic undertakings should serve as an example to us all of what constitutes good citizenship. I applaud him for his success and with him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on September 19, 2006, my vote was not recorded for House Concurrent Resolution 415, a bill condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is. Had my vote been recorded, it would have been a "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed three votes on September 25, 2006. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on H.R. 5059—to designate the Wild River Wilderness in the White Mountain National Forest in the State of New Hampshire, "no"

on H.R. 5062—to designate as wilderness certain National Forest System land in the State of New Hampshire, and "yes" on H.R. 6102—to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna, VA, as the "Captain Christopher Petty Post Office Building."

THE PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK ACT OF 2006

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce the Paterson Great Falls National Park Act of 2006. This bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by every Member of the New Jersey congressional delegation, and would designate a national park at the majestic Great Falls in Paterson, NJ. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Fifteen miles west of New York City, the Great Falls was the second largest waterfall in colonial America. No other natural wonder in America has played such an important role in our Nation's historic quest for freedom and prosperity. At the Great Falls, Alexander Hamilton conceived and implemented a plan to harness the force of water to power the new industries that would secure our economic independence.

Hamilton told Congress and the American people that at the Great Falls he would begin implementation of his ambitious strategy to transform a rural agrarian society dependent upon slavery into a modern economy based on freedom. True to Hamilton's vision, Paterson became a great manufacturing city, producing the Colt revolver, the first submarine, the aircraft engine for the first trans-Atlantic flight, more locomotives than any city in the Nation, and more silk than any city in the world.

New Jersey's Great Falls is the only National Historic District that includes both a National Natural Resource and a National Historic Landmark. In a special Bicentennial speech in Paterson with the spectacular natural beauty of the Great Falls in the background, President Gerald R. Ford said, "We can see the Great Falls as a symbol of the industrial might which helps to make America the most powerful nation in the world."

The preeminent Hamilton biographers, an esteemed former Smithsonian Institution curator, the former chief of the National Park Service Historic American Engineering Record, and distinguished professors at Yale, Princeton, Harvard, NYU, Brown and other universities have filed letters with the National Park Service strongly recommending a National Historical Park for the Great Falls Historic District.

Scholars have concluded that Pierre L'Enfant's innovative water power system in Paterson, and many factories built later, con-

stitute the finest remaining collection of engineering and architectural structures representing each stage of America's progress from a weak agrarian society to a leader in the global economy. Editorial boards, Federal, State, and local officials and community groups have also strongly endorsed the campaign to award a National Park Service designation to the falls.

This proposed national park would also encompass historic Hinchliffe Stadium, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service in 2004. This stadium, built in 1932, is adjacent to the Great Falls and was home to the New York Black Yankees. Baseball legend Larry Doby played in Hinchliffe Stadium both as a star high school athlete and again as a Negro League player, shortly before becoming the first African-American to play in the American League.

I am grateful to the National Park Service for its diligent work on the Great Falls National Park feasibility study, which was authorized by an act of Congress in 2001. Officials at the National Park Service have done meticulous, thorough work and acted with the utmost professionalism as they compiled this study, which is scheduled to be released for public comment in early October 2006. While I am confident that, given the criteria, the National Park Service study will recommend choosing the Great Falls as a national park, in the end it will only present recommendations. National Park Service units are designated by Congress, and it is imperative that we begin the process of selecting the Great Falls as a national park site as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must act now to pass this vital piece of legislation, so that we may fully recognize these cultural and historic landmarks that have played such a seminal role in America's history.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DAMON OHLERKING

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Damon Ohlerking, who succumbed to cancer on July 5, 2006.

Damon was born in Eagle Grove, Iowa on September 23, 1945. A graduate of Iowa State University, with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in landscape architecture, Damon worked in Iowa, California, New Mexico, Minnesota, Oregon and Illinois before coming to Boulder City 10 years ago as the City's urban forester. Under Damon's leadership, the City underwent numerous beautification projects, and his vision changed the face of Boulder City. Damon's efforts resulted in Boulder City winning the 2002 National League of Cities' James C. Howland Award for Urban Enhancement for all cities in the country under 50,000 population.

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